(b) whether it is also a fact that nearly 3700 employees have been rendered unemployed and are facing starvation as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to re-open the mill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) M/s. Birla Textile Mills is not operating their Weaving and allied departments for over a year.

(b) The number of workers employed in the weaving and allied departments was about 1550.

(c) Delhi Administration have informed that the conciliation machinery of the Labour Department has made efforts to get the weaving section re-opened, but have not succeeded in their efforts so far.

Closure of Handloom at Sawana

2508. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 4,000 handlooms at Sawana Delhi are closed due to rise in prices of yarn;

(b) whether it is also a fact that similar situation is being faced by the handloom industry throughout the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a large number of handloom weavers have been rendered unemployed as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to help the handloom industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) According to Delhi Administration, while no survey has been conducted it is true that some handloom units in Sawan Park (and not Sawana) are closed due to rise in prices of yarn.

(b) Due to shortage in the production of short and medium staple cotton, the price of yarn particularly of coarse counts have registered sharp increases, which has affected the handloom industry in general.

(c) The increase in the prices of yarn has affected the weavers and some of whom could have been rendered unemployed.

(d) In order to help the handloom industry in the matter of supply of yarn, the following measures have been taken:

(i) Statutory obligation has been imposed on all spinning mills whereby they should pack atleast 50 per cent of their marketable yarn in the form of hanks of which 85 per cent should be in counts 40s and below.

(ii) State Governments have been requested to pool hank yarn produced by the cooperative spinning mills, mills belonging to the National Textile Corporation, State Textile Corporation for captive use in the organised sector of handlooms.

(iii) Financial asistance is being provided for the setting up of operative spinning mills in the handloom weavers sector. A sum of Rs. 42 lakhs have been earnmarked for this purpose during the 6th Plan. Over 4 lakh spindles are expected to be commissioned during the period of 6th Plan in the handloom weavers cooperative sector. Another 8 mills in this sec-

tor, covering about 2 lakh spindles are expected to be commissioned during the 7th Plan, for which preliminary work has already been started.

(iv) The National Handloom Development Corporation, which has been set up recently, has, as one of its main objectives, procurement and supply of yarn to the handloom weavers through the State Governments. The Corporation is examining the issues of setting up of yarn depots either by itself or through the State Governments.

Transfer of officers in the Department of Revenue Intelligence outside Delhi

2509. SHRI LAXMI NARAIN:
SHRI SHAMIM AHMED SIDDIQI:
SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:
SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of officers in the Department of Revenue Intelligence have been transferred outside Delhi whereas their spouses are employed in Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in cases where both the spouses are in service, Government generally see that both are posted at the same place so as to avoid hardship to the families concerned;

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, whether officers adversely affected by the transfer orders will be re-posted to the place where the other spouses are employed; and

(d) if so, by when these orders are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) In the recent past two officers whose wives are employed in Delhi were transferred outside Delhi on promotion to the grade of Intelligence Officer.

(b) to (d) Efforts are made to keep husband and wife when both are in service at the same station, subject to administrative expediency. However, as ministerial officers promoted to the grade of Intelligence Officer lack field experience, thy have necessarily to be given such experience. These officers are specifically informed about the liability to be posted to any of the field formations and it is only after they have given their consent, they are appointed as Intelligence Officers. One of the transferred officers has made a request for posting at Delhi. At present, there is no vacancy in Delhi to accommodate him.

Defective electric fitting in I.A. Boeings

2510. SHRI R. SAMBA SIVA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost in all the Boeing aircraft of Indian Airlines the electric fittings do not work properly which may lead to short-circuit and damage the aircraft; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) No, Sir. All electric fittings in the Boeing air-